

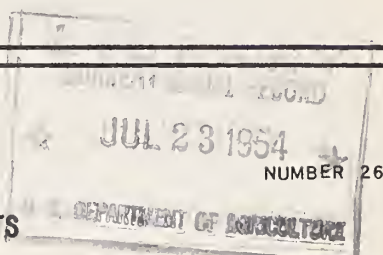
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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 68



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FOR RELEASE
MONDAY
JUNE 28, 1954

L A T E N E W S

First official report on the 1954 cotton acreage in Egypt places the area planted at 1,826,000 acres. This is 33 percent above the final acreage estimate of 1,375,000 acres for 1953-54, but is considerably less than the average of around 2,050,000 acres for the 3 previous years.

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The 1954 cotton acreage in Greece has been estimated by private sources at a 15 percent increase over last year's acreage of 211,000 acres.

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Imports of cotton into the United States in April 1954 amounted to 24,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) making a total of 116,000 bales for August-April 1953-54. The latter total includes 60,000 bales from Egypt, 17,000 from India, 16,000 from Mexico, 10,000 from Pakistan, 8,000 from Peru, 3,000 from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and 2,000 from Brazil.

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Imports of cotton linters into the United States in April 1954 amounted to 8,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) making a total of 137,000 bales for August-April 1953-54. Principal sources included in the latter figure are Mexico 76,000 bales, Brazil 28,000, the Soviet Union 19,000, and 3,000 each from Western Germany, Paraguay, and Peru.

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Cotton mill consumption in Canada during May 1954 amounted to 25,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) continuing the level of recent months but running 17 percent below the previous year. Consumption for the 10-month period August 1953-May 1954 totaled 264,000 bales, as compared with 319,000 for the corresponding period of 1952-53.

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(Continued on Page 626)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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WORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, FIRST QUARTER, 1954 ^{1/}

Factory production of butter, cheese and dried milk was higher, but canned milk production was lower in the major dairying countries in the first quarter of 1954, as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1953, according to information available to Foreign Agricultural Service.

Some improvement in pastures occurred in Australia, resulting in a larger milk flow. Dry conditions in New Zealand were reflected in lower milk production in this quarter. Conditions were favorable for dairying in many of the countries of Western Europe, and milk production continued at a high level. In the Western Hemisphere, milk production in both Canada and the United States ran considerably above that of a year ago.

Factory butter production in the opening quarter of 1954 rose 5 percent above the corresponding quarter of 1953. Somewhat larger quantities of milk were available for manufacturing in Australia and butter production increased, but lower supplies in New Zealand resulted in a drop in butter output.

In Denmark, milk production was up, and butter-making absorbed a larger portion of the increased supplies available for manufacturing purposes than in the same quarter a year ago. Butter output also was higher in Ireland and the United Kingdom, but was lower in the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Production in both Canada and the United States increased in the first quarter, due to larger manufacturing supplies.

Cheese production in factories increased 21 percent in the first quarter of 1954 over the comparable quarter of 1953. Output in Australia was up, slightly more milk being diverted to cheese manufacture than a year earlier. In New Zealand, cheese production was smaller than in the corresponding period of 1953. Output was down in Denmark, less milk being utilized for cheese than a year earlier. Production also was down in Norway and Sweden. More cheese was produced in the Netherlands, Canada and the United States where much of the larger quantities of milk available for manufacturing was used for cheese.

Canned milk output declined 4 percent in the January-March quarter of 1954, compared with the same quarter of 1953. Of the 4 countries reporting, production was down in all except Canada, the improvement there being due to a marked increase in the output of evaporated milk.

^{1/} A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington 25, D. C.

FACTORY DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries, 1st quarter (calendar) 1954, with comparisons

Country and product	Average 1934-38	Average 1946-50	Total 1953	1953				1954 1st Quarter	1954 4th Quarter	1954 1st Quarter 1954/53
				1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter			
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	percent
BUTTER										
Canada	254,774	277,868	303,709	34,065	103,628	110,847	55,169	35,773	105	
United States	1,673,328	1,301,830	1,424,940	331,545	447,555	354,460	291,380	376,670	114	
Belgium	46,179	55,353	90,609	15,051	28,120	28,382	19,056	—	—	
Denmark	400,660	381,175	381,175	78,704	112,214	105,601	84,656	89,408	114	
Finland	61,287	61,215	106,352	19,804	31,797	32,258	22,493	—	—	
France 5/	529,000	390,471	606,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Germany, Western	57/8/	492,188	637,706	123,755	183,284	185,494	145,173	—	—	
Ireland	89,400	68,648	78,774	2,968	26,324	34,366	15,116	4,886	165	
Netherlands	201,000	155,620	182,984	30,202	58,422	56,440	37,920	26,409	87	
Norway	24,930	20,049	28,305	4,874	12,443	8,158	2,830	4,196	86	
Sweden	152,769	216,442	215,814	43,181	64,583	65,682	42,368	41,307	96	
Switzerland 5/	57,760	36,949	52,469	9,725	15,776	15,189	10,712	—	—	
United Kingdom	44,200	23,529	31,888	2,688	12,589	10,349	6,262	11,021	410	
Argentina	65,742	100,657	127,869	30,864	—	—	—	—	—	
Union of So. Africa	27,725	44,845	68,151	20,789	15,345	12,839	19,178	—	—	
Australia	415,250	354,371	350,186	103,032	58,004	64,217	124,933	107,372	104	
New Zealand - total	366,912	346,095	430,682	138,947	43,523	80,931	167,281	111,104	80	
Export gradings	322,796	301,826	363,744	119,171	29,975	63,027	151,571	91,143	76	
CHEESE										
Canada	119,924	114,329	75,185	6,382	26,699	28,671	13,433	6,497	102	
United States	643,234	1,156,005	1,297,940	277,285	419,025	340,290	261,340	398,055	144	
Denmark	68,820	123,634	192,021	41,226	64,595	52,911	33,289	35,056	85	
France 12/	584,000	424,070	595,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Italy 12/	523,513	491,326	721,000	42,136	97,631	85,457	58,021	44,004	104	
Netherlands	200,000	176,926	283,245	16,232	20,183	15,736	9,147	13,839	85	
Norway 14/	39,067	35,564	61,298	27,156	38,567	35,127	18,862	23,400	86	
Sweden	76,059	115,005	119,712	18,106	37,674	42,804	22,693	—	—	
Switzerland 14/	111,729	107,232	130,733	43,546	58,733	54,074	40,813	52,685	121	
United Kingdom 5/	109,000	69,888	197,166	70,547	—	—	—	—	—	
Argentina	67,873	203,830	242,506	6,218	5,127	5,436	7,636	—	—	
Union of So. Africa	10,195	17,967	24,417	24,219	10,542	23,990	47,956	26,437	109	
Australia	48,400	98,396	106,707	77,280	25,312	37,181	104,848	71,456	92	
New Zealand - total	210,911	216,842	244,758	80,113	34,026	21,422	96,360	74,675	93	
Export gradings	204,110	205,962	231,921	—	—	—	—	—	—	

CANNED MILK

Canada 15/	104,335 :	266,532 :	305,297 :	42,524 :	114,227 :	93,589 :	54,957 :	48,908 :	115
United States 16/	1,970,189 :	3,170,576 :	2,598,510 :	543,950 :	907,885 :	668,300 :	478,375 :	521,775 :	96
Cuba	32,564 :	36,655 :	— :	12,348 :	14,280 :	— :	— :	— :	—
Denmark	40,785 :	58,701 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
France	28,953 17/	57,984 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
Netherlands	305,952 :	181,222 2/	484,488 2/	94,020 :	136,306 2/	108,898 2/	145,324 :	86,257 :	92
Switzerland	14,198 :	13,091 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
United Kingdom	378,560 :	219,914 2/	284,122 2/	46,502 :	170,509 2/	46,144 2/	20,967 :	— :	—
Argentina	3,159 17/	11,914 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
Australia	41,894 8/	132,745 :	139,626 2/	35,903 :	13,811 :	25,993 2/	63,919 :	31,561 :	88
New Zealand	11,273 17/	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—

DRIED MILK 20/

Canada	26,079 :	70,876 2/	99,685 2/	15,152 2/	33,443 :	32,432 :	18,658 :	14,741 :	97
United States	209,555 17/	913,436 :	1,305,105 :	293,960 :	456,225 :	301,840 :	253,080 :	356,000 :	121
Belgium	5,500 :	6,607 :	34,622 :	4,594 :	14,780 :	10,509 :	4,745 :	— :	—
Denmark	2,205 :	16,866 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
France	7,685 17/	3,308 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
Netherlands	56,438 :	54,468 :	118,050 2/	10,675 :	46,330 :	39,673 2/	21,372 :	9,099 :	85
Sweden	1,315 :	24,566 2/	25,496 :	5,319 :	8,348 :	8,136 2/	3,693 :	— :	—
Switzerland	7,187 :	10,847 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
United Kingdom	43,098 :	73,848 2/	85,477 :	7,437 :	38,617 2/	22,041 2/	17,382 :	20,966 :	282
Argentina	3,977 17/	14,070 :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—
Australia	16,971 2/	54,235 :	83,877 :	24,248 2/	7,973 :	15,186 2/	36,470 :	23,648 :	98
New Zealand	17,429 2/	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	— :	—

1/ Average 1935-39. 2/ Revised. 3/ Total production in 1933 is estimated at 192,902,000 pounds. 4/ Average 1948-50. 5/ Total production. 6/ Estimated. 7/ Average 1935-38. 8/ Production year ending June 30. 9/ Annual production figures more complete than monthly figures used in quarterly data. 10/ Production year ending August 31. 11/ Marketing year ending July 31. 12/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. 13/ For 1948. 14/ Total cheese and includes cheese made from the milk of goats. 15/ Both bulk and case goods. 16/ Evaporated whole and condensed whole case goods only. (Estimates of production of bulk types discontinued). 17/ Less than a 5 year average. 18/ For 1937. 19/ For 1939. 20/ Total dried whole and dried skim milk for human consumption. 21/ For 1938.

Foreign Agricultural Services. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U.S. Foreign Service reports, and other information. June 28, 1944.

All dried milk production in the opening quarter of 1954 gained 17 percent over comparable 1953. Output was down in Australia, Netherlands and Canada, but was up in the United Kingdom and the United States. In the latter country, the increase occurred in the output of nonfat dry milk solids, production of which was the highest in 20 years of record.

Prospects for the dairy industry in the Southern Hemisphere appear to be favorable. The principal dairying areas of both Australia and New Zealand have experienced generally widespread rains and the outlook for the current winter is very good. In the Netherlands, general drought conditions have affected dairy herds; stock have been on pastures for but a very short time. With more cows in production in Canada than a year ago and pastures and meadows in good condition, the outlook for milk production is extremely favorable.---By Regina M. Murray, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

1954 BRAZIL NUT FORECAST BELOW 1953

The 1954 estimated production of Brazil nuts in Brazil, is 28,500 short tons, as compared with 33,000 tons in 1953. This is 14 percent below 1953 production, but 5 percent above the 5-year average (1946-50). The decrease from 1953 is attributed to poor yields in certain important producing areas which have not been entirely offset by good yields in other areas. Weather conditions have been favorable for harvesting. Brazil accounts for practically all of the world's commercial production of Brazil nuts.

Under the present favorable position of the market, this year's harvest of unshelled Brazil nuts in the Amazon Valley has been progressing well. Available stocks started to move from the interior into the major exporting centers earlier and in larger volume this season than in the corresponding period a year ago. In the first quarter of 1954, arrivals of unshelled Brazil nuts at the major export centers totaled 9,034 short tons compared with 6,881 tons in the first quarter of 1953.

With good export prospects foreseen, business activities started early. The United Kingdom and Germany started to show an early interest in this year's crop. From January through mid-April 1954 it is estimated that the United Kingdom purchased 3,300 short tons of unshelled nuts at Manus, and an estimate given indicates that they are expected to buy a total of 10,000-13,000 tons of unshelled nuts during the current season. Germany is expected to purchase about 2,200-3,300 tons.

United States buyers during this period gave evidence of their interest in the new crop through the visit of several brokers and/or direct importers made to Belem and Manus markets with the purpose of estimating the size of the crop and local exporting prospects. In this period, however, purchases of unshelled nuts made by United States importers were believed very limited. Sizable sales, however, were expected to be made by them through July.

BRAZIL NUTS: Estimated commercial production
in Brazil, forecast 1954 with comparisons
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Average:	
1946-50.....	27,100
Annual:	
1947.....	30,400
1948.....	18,900
1949.....	35,200
1950.....	23,200
1951.....	33,000
1952.....	18,700
1953.....	33,000
1954 <u>1/</u>	28,500

1/ Preliminary.

UNITED STATES: Imports of Brazil nuts
(Crop year, September-August)

Year	Average		Annual			
	1941-42	1946-47	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54 <u>1/</u>
	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short	Short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
	<u>S H E L L E D</u>					
Brazil....	2,565	3,169	2,470	3,069	2,926	1,815
Other....	32	11	32	78	161	51
Total....	<u>2,597</u>	<u>3,180</u>	<u>2,502</u>	<u>3,147</u>	<u>3,087</u>	<u>1,866</u>
	<u>U N S H E L L E D</u>					
Brazil....	7,193	10,799	4,579	11,870	9,208	4,677
Other....	5	3	14	0	16	50
Total....	<u>7,198</u>	<u>10,802</u>	<u>4,593</u>	<u>11,870</u>	<u>9,224</u>	<u>4,727</u>

1/ Eight months, September through April.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

In the 8 months, September 1953 through April 1954, United States imports of 1,866 short tons of shelled and 4,727 tons of unshelled Brazil nuts were substantially above those of the same period a year earlier when imports amounted to only 1,590 tons of shelled and 3,639 tons unshelled. (Note: Fuller information regarding the prospective Brazil nut situation is contained in Foreign Agriculture Circular FN 5-54, published May 19, 1954 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington 25, D.C.

GRAPES IN THE UKRAINE

Recent Soviet data indicate that vineyards in the Ukraine, which now also includes Crimea, occupy 170,746 acres and constitute more than 20 percent of the total vineyard area of the Soviet Union.

From 60 to 70 percent of all the Ukrainian vineyards are in the Odessa province of Southern Ukraine. More than 3,000 collective farms and 82 state farms are engaged in grape growing in the Ukraine. This year, the vineyard area in that Republic is to be increased by 22,108 acres, of which 4,885 acres are to be planted in the important Crimean region.

In addition, 1,253 acres are to be planted to new vine nurseries. Complaints, however, were voiced by a Soviet source of neglect and backwardness of the Ukrainian grape industry. Considerable interest is being manifested in the development of the fruit and grape industry by the Soviet Government.

1954 INDIA CASHEW CROP FORECAST SAME AS LAST YEAR

The 1954 Indian cashew crop is now estimated at 59,000 short tons, unshelled basis, virtually the same as in 1953, and 19 percent above the 5-year average (1946-50) of 49,500 tons. Of the total production forecast, 48,200 tons are estimated for South India 6,700 in Bombay and 4,300 in Goa. Trade sources are not as optimistic as they were in January 1954, owing to excessive and untimely rains in Travancore-Cochin, Malabar and South Kanara. Harvesting started about the middle of February. About half of the crop is reported to have been harvested by the middle of May.

Trade sources estimate that about 67,000 short tons of unshelled cashew nuts might be imported from East Africa during 1954 compared with the record quantity, 82,200 tons, imported in 1953 and 58,900 in 1952. A total of about 34,000 short tons have already been imported this season of which about 28,000 tons are reported to have changed hands from importers to processors.

INDIA: Cashew Nut Production, 1954
with Comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	U N S H E L L E D		
	Bombay	South	Total
	district 1/	India	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:			
1946-50	11,000	38,600	49,600
Annual:			
1946.....	16,800	58,800	75,600
1947.....	10,100	16,800	26,900
1948.....	11,800	39,200	51,000
1949.....	5,300	33,600	38,900
1950.....	11,200	44,800	56,000
1951.....	11,200	56,000	67,200
1952.....	9,500	53,800	63,300
1953 <u>2/</u>	9,000	50,400	59,400
1954 <u>2/</u>	11,000	48,000	59,000

1/ Includes Goa.

2/ Preliminary.

During the calendar year 1953, Indian exports of cashew kernels totaled 31,000 short tons, 8 percent above the 1952 level of 28,692 short tons. The United States continued to be the largest buyer, taking 21,689 short tons in 1953, according to Indian export statistics. In 1952 exports to the United States amounted to 19,288 tons. The United Kingdom, with 7,194 tons, was the second most important buyer of cashew kernels in 1953, as in previous years.

Of significance to the cashew kernel trade has been the considerable fall in the export of kernels to the United Kingdom. As against 1,619 short tons exported to the United Kingdom in the first quarter of 1953, the United Kingdom has taken only 522 short tons in the corresponding period of 1954. This is reported to be due to the derationing of sugar and the liberalization of licenses for other types of nuts in the United Kingdom. However, offsetting increases in exports may take place as a result of the new trade pacts between India and Czechoslovakia and India and the U.S.S.R.

The price of kernels has been fluctuating between 37 and 40 U.S. cents per pound for 320 count and 26 to 31 cents for Large Pieces. Prices for cashew kernels at the end of May have been reported as follows:

C. & F. New York
U.S. dollars per lb.

210 Count Wholes	\$.43
240 " "	.40
320 " "	.37
450 " "	.33
Scorched Wholes.	.33
Butts.....	.29
Splits.....	.27
Fancy Pieces....	.25
Scorched Pieces.	.24

The prices of African cashews per ton, c.i.f. Malabar, ranged from Rs. 605 per long ton in January 1954 to Rs. 465 per long ton in May 1954. (Taken from a report prepared by K.S. Sarangapany of the American Consulate, Madras, India.)

United States Imports.--In the first 8 months, September 1953 through April 1954 of the current season, United States imports of shelled cashew nuts have totaled 15,511 short tons, approximately 7 percent more than the 14,520 tons imported in the same period of 1952-53. Imports from India of 14,431 tons were 3 percent greater than in the same months of the previous season. Imports from Goa and Mozambique which normally supply less than 5 percent of the United States imports rose sharply but still accounted for only a minor proportion of total takings by the United States.

UNITED STATES: Imports of cashew nuts

(Crop year, September/August)

Year	S H E L L E D						
	Brazil	Goa	Haiti	India	Mozam- bique	Other	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1941-50.....	159	262	41	13,849	16	67	14,394
1946-50.....	155	489	40	19,000	30	30	19,744
Annual:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1946-47.....	309	279	51	15,323	8	45	16,015
1947-48.....	351	419	23	14,749	0	43	15,585
1948-49.....	66	278	12	18,172	0	34	18,562
1949-50.....	40	513	30	20,403	0	22	21,008
1950-51.....	10	958	81	26,351	141	8	27,549
1951-52.....	11	763	48	19,272	348	3	20,445
1952-53.....	10	223	16	22,070	458	0	22,777
1953-54 1/.....	3	469	2	14,431	576	30	15,511
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

1/ September through April.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Wholesale prices at specified markets June, 1954, with comparisons (In U. S. Cents per pound)

Country, market and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	Date	Price	Month	Year	Date	Price	Month	Year
	1954		earlier	earlier	1954		earlier	earlier
<u>United Kingdom (London) 1/</u>								
Group 1	: May 28:	51.6:	51.6 :	-	: May 28:	22.6:	22.6 :	-
Group 2	: May 28:	50.3:	50.3 :	-	: May 28:	21.4:	21.4 :	-
Group 3	: May 28:	49.1:	49.1 :	-	: May 28:	18.9:	18.9 :	-
National butter	: June 5:	- :	- :	36.4	: " :	- :	- :	-
Ration varieties	: " :	- :	- :	-	: June 5:	- :	- :	25.0
<u>Australia (Sydney)</u>								
Choicest butter	: June 1:	41.9:	41.9 :	41.8	: - :	- :	- :	-
Choicest Cheddar	: - :	- :	- :	-	: June 1:	25.7:	25.7 :	25.7
<u>Irish Republic (Dublin)</u>								
Creamery butter (bulk)	: May 2 :	55.0:	55.0 :	55.0	: - :	- :	- :	-
Cheese	: - :	- :	- :	-	: May 2 :	31.0:	31.0 :	28.8
<u>Denmark (Copenhagen)</u>								
	: May 27:	42.0:	44.9 :	42.0	: - :	- :	- :	-
<u>France (Paris)</u>								
Charentes Creamery butter	: May 27:	71.2:	66.1 :	77.8	: - :	- :	- :	-
<u>Germany (Kempten)</u>								
Markenbutter	: May 26:	59.5:	60.0 :	56.7	: - :	- :	- :	-
<u>United States</u>								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	: May 28:	57.6:	57.6 :	65.8	: - :	- :	- :	-
Cheddar (Wisconsin)	: - :	- :	- :	-	: May 28:	30.5:	30.8 :	35.5
<u>Netherlands (Leeuwarden)</u>								
Creamery butter	: May 29:	46.2:	46.0 :	46.1	: - :	- :	- :	-
Full cream Gouda	: - :	- :	- :	-	: May 21:	22.4:	22.5 :	22.7
Edam 40 percent	: - :	- :	- :	-	: May 21:	20.7:	20.4 :	20.4
<u>Belgium (Hasselt)</u>								
	: May 26:	73.9:	79.1 :	73.8	: - :	- :	- :	-
<u>Canada (Montreal)</u>								
1st grade creamery	: May 22:	59.0:	59.1 :	58.6	: - :	- :	- :	-
Ontario white	: - :	- :	- :	-	: May 22:	30.5:	30.5 :	2/

Sources: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee; U. S. Consular Reports; and The Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

1/ Group 1: Butter includes U.K. First grade, Argentine table grades, Australian Choicest and First Grades, New Zealand Finest and First Grades, Danish LUR and Dutch Unsalted; Cheese includes U. K. First Grade, Australian Choicest and First Grades, and New Zealand Finest and First Grades. Group 2: Butter includes U. K., Australian and New Zealand Second Grades; Cheese includes U.K. Australian and New Zealand Second Grades. Group 3: Butter includes Manufacturing varieties; Cheese includes U.K. Third Grades and Australian and New Zealand Under Grades.

2/ No trading.

LIBERIA REPORTS SIZABLE IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Recently released Government statistics of Liberian imports for the first quarter of 1953 show sizable imports of livestock products. Those imports amounted to approximately one-third of the value of all food imports except rice.

Meat product imports amounted to \$73,700 during the first quarter of 1953. Canned meat had a total value of \$34,600 while dried meat was valued at \$9,100 and fresh meat at \$20,000.

About one-half of the first quarter meat imports originated in the United States. During the 1953 calendar year the United States reported total shipments to Liberia of 308,201 pounds of meat products of which 48,178 pounds were fresh beef, veal and pork; the value of meat exports to Liberia during the year was \$149,631 of which \$33,633 was for fresh meat.

Liberia reported that during the first quarter of 1953 butter imports totaled \$13,200; of this amount approximately \$5,500 represented the value of 7,300 pounds of butter shipped from the United States during the period.

Milk imports, according to Liberian Government statistics, amounted in value to \$31,600; no description of the type of milk products was given. During the calendar year 1953, United States sources show, 77,000 pounds of dried whole milk were shipped to Liberia with a value of \$36,800; exports of ice cream mix powder amounted to 40,000 pounds at a value of \$20,000. Approximately 20 percent of the exports of these items to Liberia were during the first quarter of the year.

Estimates of livestock numbers in Liberia as of December 31 show 8,000 cattle, 10,000 goats, 10,000 swine, 7,000 sheep and 35,000 chickens. Liberia has a human population of approximately 2.5 million and must import most of its livestock and poultry products.

MEAT SHORTAGE IN URUGUAY

There is a severe meat shortage in Montevideo, Capital of Uruguay, as a result of the virtual paralysis of the Frigorifico Nacional, the Government-supported packing house which has a monopoly for supplying meat for the city. The slaughter plant has over-extended credit and is heavily in debt to cattle producers. Increasing numbers of slaughter cattle are being diverted away from the official stockyards by small slaughter establishments operating outside the city limits. The black market in meat has made it impossible for the organization to supply normal supplies to city consumers through the usual marketing channels.

With elections approaching, the meat problem remains unsettled. Various proposals for alleviating the situation have been proposed, ranging from further Government subsidies to Frigorifico Nacional to permitting private packing plants to supply meat for the city.

Meat supplies are larger in other parts of Uruguay and total exports of frozen meat in the first 5 months of 1954 totaled 56 million pounds. Shipments to Russia were reported at 30 million pounds, of which almost 3 million were shipped to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The remainder went largely to the United Kingdom. Exports to the United Kingdom were negligible during April and May and no further exports in volume appear probable through at least June.

NORWAY MAY REQUIRE BUTTER IMPORTS IN LATER PART OF YEAR

Conditions in the dairy industry in Norway may make it necessary for that country to import butter in the latter half of the year.

Milk deliveries to plants during the first quarter of 1954 are approximately 14 percent below those of 1953, and a number of factors appear to be involved. The quality of the 1953 hay crop was poor as compared with the good crop of 1952. There has also been a reduction of about 9 percent in the rations of concentrate feed. Finally, there has been some reduction in milk cow numbers due in part to a growing farm dissatisfaction with milk prices and the drop in the farm labor force.

In 1953 Norway was about self-sufficient in dairy products, exporting some butter and cheese, particularly goat's milk cheese. Heavier exports of butter to the Soviet bloc countries than was warranted by the domestic situation resulted in the need to import butter from Denmark.

Production of margarine during the quarter was slightly higher than 1953, but was less than the corresponding period for 1952.

VENEZUELAN BUTTER IMPORTS

The recently announced sale of 31,248 pounds of Commodity Credit Corporation butter to Venezuela by a private exporter was made possible only through the pooling by a number of concerns of their import licenses. The licenses granted by the Venezuelan Government limit the amount of butter that may be imported by any one applicant. The trade in Venezuela reports that prospective sellers of butter to that country should make offers in amounts not exceeding 5,000 pounds and that smaller amounts are preferable.

About 90 percent of all Venezuelan imports are of unsalted butter and purchasers of CCC stocks for exportation to Venezuela would undoubtedly have to substitute unsalted butter for the purchased stocks. Venezuelan imports are on a 92 score or better basis and are subject to examination by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare before they may be offered to the public. The customs duty on butter is 30 cents per pound.

Denmark has been the main supplier of butter to Venezuela. In 1953 Danish butter accounted for 87.5 percent of the 2,085,411 pounds imported. The Netherlands was the next largest exporter with 8.5 percent of the total; followed by the United States with 3 percent or 62,324 pounds. During the first quarter of 1954 Venezuela imported almost 60,000 pounds of butter of which about 81 percent was of Danish origin and 4 percent was from the United States.

Most Danish butter is received in one-pound cartons with quarter-pound wraps. Its wholesale price at the port of delivery and before custom duties is from 60 cents to 61-cents per pound. Some Danish butter is imported in cans ranging from one-half pound to 5 pounds. However, this is a declining import item.

Several concerns in Venezuela are importing frozen cream from Denmark which they are churning and canning locally under the label, "Danish butter, a product of Venezuela". Other information on the label further identifies the product as having been made from Danish cream. The customs duty on cream with a fat content up to 70 percent is about 16.3 cents per pound. Consequently it is necessary to have at least a 48 percent butterfat cream before the duty cost on locally churned butter would be less than that of the 30 cents per pound import duty on butter. One benefit of importing cream for buttermaking purposes is that cream is not subject to import license. Therefore at any time when the demand for butter is running ahead of controlled imports, cream importers can supply the deficit independently of the licensing authority. Locally canned butter from imported frozen cream is of very high quality, but the unsalted butter of this origin has met with some technical difficulties in that it has been developing unnatural flavors after a few weeks.

NEW ZEALAND'S RECORD WOOL CLIP SOLD

New Zealand's record 1953-54 wool clip, estimated at 422 million pounds, has been sold with prices at the final auction at Wellington on May 26 rising to the highest point of the season.

Closing prices were about 7.5 percent above the level of the opening sale last October. The season as a whole was extremely good with returns being the second highest on record, exceeded only by the abnormal 1950-51 season. The pattern of buying at the closing sales remained unchanged from that reported for several weeks previously with the United Kingdom and Western European buying predominating.

There is no significant carry-over of wool at the end of the Auction season. All wool offered for sale in New Zealand was taken and the only wool remaining is in process of shipment, or pulled wool being disposed of as animals are slaughtered.

URUGUAY'S WOOL EXPORTS INCREASE IN MAY;
OUTLOOK FOR MINIMUM CARRY-OVER

The brisk pace in the Uruguayan wool market which began in April continued throughout May. Strong off-shore demand brought the highest prices of the season, and the movement of wool was hampered only by the limited capacity for grading, sorting, baling and warehousing.

Exports during May totaled slightly over 20 million pounds, actual weight, of which greasy and washed wool accounted for about 18 million and wool tops 2 million. This may be compared to exports averaging about 10 million pounds per month during the preceding 8 months.

During the first 8 months of this season (October-June) wool exports have totaled around 85 million pounds of which greasy and washed wool accounted for 70 million and wool tops 14 million pounds. The remainder consisted of other processed wool.

Wool prices, which began to react upward 2 months ago, reached a seasonal high late in May. Prices for wool delivered to Montevideo warehouses during the month of May based on an exchange rate of 1.6 pesos to the dollar, ranged from 66 to 71 cents per pound (grease basis) for superfine crossbred; 64 to 68 cents for superior crossbred; 61 to 65 cents for good crossbred; and 52 to 54 cents for fine to medium lamb crossbred. Growers have definitely become interested in selling at these price levels. Approximately half of the last clip and carry-in stocks (estimated in aggregate at around 217 million pounds) have been sold.

Taking into consideration the size of the last clip, carry-over, exports through May, and probable consumption, there remained to be shipped during June-October roughly 90 million pounds of wool, greasy equivalent, if the new season is to start without a carry-in next October. Should the pace of the last few weeks continue, the outlook is for only a minimum carry-over into the next wool season.

The direct entry of Soviet buyers into the Uruguayan wool market during May is of special significance. Direct Soviet purchase for the month totaled about 1 million pounds while indirect purchases through British buyers totaled a little over 2 million. During the 8 month period beginning October 1953 the United Kingdom, Netherlands, United States and Germany, in the order named, were the leading destinations for Uruguayan wool. Exports to the United States accounted for only 13 percent of the total.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS IN APRIL, 1954

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in April 1954, totaled 27.6 million pounds valued at \$16.6 million. This was 5.9 million pounds higher than in March but 45 percent below April, 1953.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 18.7 million pounds in April compared to 44.7 million for April 1953, a 58 percent decrease. This can be accounted for in large measure by decreased shipments to the United Kingdom (15,000 pounds in April of this year, compared to 29.5 million pounds in April, 1953). All other types showed increases with the exception of One-Sucker, Cigar Binder and Cigar Filler.

In the first 4 months of the current year, total tobacco leaf exports, at 98.7 million pounds, were 32 percent below the same period last year. Exports of flue-cured, at 77.0 million, were off 36 percent, but exports of Burley, at 8.1 million pounds, were 35 percent higher than a year earlier. Exports of most other types fell off.

Exports of U. S. Unmanufactured Tobacco, April 1954, January-April 1954 with Comparisons (Export Weight)

Type	April		Jan.-April	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
	-	-	-	-
	1,000 pounds			
	:			
Flue-Cured.....	44,675	18,729	121,212	77,065
Burley.....	2,167	3,812	5,954	8,051
Virginia Fire-Cured..	65	429	1,349	1,195
Dark-Fired Kentucky-	:	:	:	:
Tennessee.....	1,214	2,069	7,908	5,535
Maryland.....	611	1,080	2,437	2,060
Green River.....	21	64	988	835
One Sucker.....	140	119	314	277
Cigar Wrapper.....	322	342	1,317	902
Cigar Binder.....	335	170	1,260	517
Cigar Filler.....	14	-	147	147
Other.....	540	746	1,894	2,130
Total.....	50,104	27,560	144,780	98,714
Declared value,	:	:	:	:
million dollars..	33.1	16.6	93.5	63.1
	:	:	:	:

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of tobacco products, which were valued at \$5.8 million, were higher in April 1954 than in the same month last year. All products with the exception of smoking tobacco in packages shared in the increase.

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Exports of cigarettes and smoking tobacco in packages were lower in the January-April 1954 period than in the same period a year ago. Exports of all other tobacco products were higher.

Exports of U. S. Tobacco Products April 1954, with Comparisons

Class of Products	April		Jan., April	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
Cigars and Cheroots (1,000 pieces).....	490	1,014	1,553	3,014
Cigarettes (1,000 pieces).....	1,330,699	1,414,664	5,797,540	5,125,906
Chewing Tobacco and Snuff (1,000 pounds).....	62	139	375	528
Smoking Tobacco in Packages (1,000 pounds).....	60	55	231	181
Smoking Tobacco in Bulk (1,000 pounds).....	143	538	1,090	1,202
Declared value, (million dollars).....	4.9	5.8	21.5	20.3

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

SWISS IMPORTS OF LEAF TOBACCO HOLD STEADY

The first quarter 1954 imports of leaf tobacco by Switzerland were slightly larger than in 1952 and 1953. Indications are that imports will hold at near the level of previous years. Switzerland is holding a high level of business activity, but has relaxed a little from the boom economy of the past few years.

Switzerland: Imports of Leaf Tobacco by Country of Origin

Origin	Jan.-March, 1952	Jan.-March, 1953	Jan.-March, 1954
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Italy.....	195	281	400
Greece.....	359	335	403
Turkey.....	555	534	550
Indonesia.....	274	327	323
United States.....	2,779	2,706	2,664
Dominican Republic..	210	202	201
Brazil.....	1,098	1,097	1,044
Other.....	344	320	462
Total	5,814	5,802	6,047

Source: Swiss Statistical Tables of Foreign Commerce

FIRST QUARTER 1954 DANISH TOBACCO LEAF IMPORTS

Danish leaf imports for the first quarter of 1954 shows that 68 percent more leaf was imported from the United States than in the first quarter of 1953. Total first quarter imports rose only 8 percent over the corresponding 1953 period. Imports from European countries dropped 88 percent from the first quarter of 1953 and imports from both Brazil and Indonesia were lower.

Denmark: Imports of Leaf Tobacco by Country of Origin

Origin	Jan.-March:1953	Jan.-March:1954	Percent change from 1953
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Europe.....	482	58	-88
United States.....	1,767	2,962	+68
Brazil.....	856	791	-7
Indonesia.....	309	292	-6
Other.....	738	376	-49
Total	4,152	4,479	+8

Source: Danish Statistical Department

EGYPT TO ALLOW DOMESTIC TOBACCO PRODUCTION

The American Embassy at Cairo reports that the Counsel of Ministers authorized production of tobacco in Egypt for the first time in 64 years. Egyptian soil is not considered suitable for growing a good quality of tobacco and production was never large. In 1890 all domestic production was forbidden to protect the tariff revenues on tobacco (which were easier to collect than internal excise duties).

Total imports of unmanufactured tobacco declined from 27.9 million pounds in 1951 to 24.2 million in 1953. Imports from the United States, however, increased from 3.9 million pounds to 5 million pounds over the same period. This has resulted from the decided trend toward straight Virginia and blended types of cigarettes. Consumption of these types increased from 37.5 percent of the market in 1951 to 42.2 percent in 1953. About 75 percent of the imports from the United States last year were flue-cured and 24 percent Burley. It is doubtful that Egypt can produce substitutes for these tobaccos.

Production can not start on tobacco until spring of 1955. This will put a crop on the market in late 1955 or early 1956. First plantings will probably be of an experimental nature and it is highly improbable that any production of significance will be sold before 1958.

BENELUX DROPS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO

Benelux, the customs union of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg recently announced the end of import restrictions on unmanufactured tobacco from dollar areas. This relaxation of import regulations will make it simpler to negotiate and export United States tobacco to these areas. This action was made possible by the improved dollar position of these countries.

VENEZUELA IMPORTS LARGE NUMBER OF BABY CHICKS

The Venezuelan Government has established its second quarter quota of baby chick imports, for 1954 at over 2 million. The United States exported to Venezuela 2,444,000 baby chicks during the first quarter, approximately a million more than the original quota established for the first quarter. Furthermore an all time high of 3,200,000 United States baby chicks were exported to Venezuela from January through April. The United States exported 2,942,000 chicks to that country during the same period in 1953.

It is reported the present retail price of dressed chickens is 88 cents per pound and that live birds are selling for 60 cents per pound.

INTERNATIONAL COTTON MEETING IN BRAZIL

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee met in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from June 7 to 16. The key decision of the meeting was to suspend further consideration of an international cotton agreement and to shift the emphasis of the organization to exploring ways of increasing cotton consumption.

According to a cable received from the United States delegation at the conclusion of the meeting, the resolutions approved covered the following points.

1. Each Government should consider what action it can take to encourage increased world cotton consumption.
2. Member Governments have agreed to send to the Secretariat for circulation, information on technological and other research, and on organization and financing of research organizations.
3. The Secretariat will secure information from Member Governments on promotional efforts in the various countries.
4. Member Governments should give serious consideration toward participation in a welfare program. Member Governments are to keep a standing committee informed as to arrangements relating to a welfare program.

5. No further action is to be taken at present leading toward a cotton agreement. Governments should reflect on findings relating to the subject, which may be reopened in the future if any considerable body of opinion favors such action.
6. The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting of the Committee will be held in Paris in 1955.

These resolutions are in line with the position taken by the United States delegation to the meeting. The United States delegation was headed by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John H. Davis, and included several representatives of trade groups as well as officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture concerned with cotton exports.

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL

Exports of cotton from the United States in April maintained the high level of recent months when a total of 434,000 bales of 500 pounds (418,000 running bales) were reported. The August-April 1953-54 total of 2,873,000 bales (2,758,000 running bales) is 12 percent greater than the 2,557,000 bales exported during a similar period a year ago. Preliminary trade data published by the New York Cotton Exchange indicates that the favorable export movement has continued through the middle of June, despite the retarding effect of a warehouse employees' strike at Galveston, Texas, since April.

The upturn in exports became evident early in 1954 when stocks of unsold cotton in foreign exporting countries neared depletion, and price discounts below the price of United States cotton were no longer available. Some uncertainty regarding the possibility of lower export prices for United States cotton remained in the market for several months, however, and was the principal cause for importers in foreign cotton to buy only for current needs and to let their stocks drift a little lower.

This lack of confidence in the current price of cotton has been removed to a large extent by recent developments. An announcement by the Secretary of Agriculture on June 11 that there will be no cotton export subsidy during 1954-55, together with improved export outlook and the sharp restriction of 1954 acreage apparently has convinced most importers that no special prices on exported cotton may be expected during the next year. Two other factors that have the same influence on the market are expected continuation of world cotton consumption at a level close to this year's all-time record of about 34.5 million bales, and no evidence thus far that an increase in foreign production will be large enough to offset the reduction in the United States.

At the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee held at Sao Paulo, Brazil, June 7-16, 1954, delegates from the 30 countries represented adopted resolutions to abandon for the time being any further effort to conclude an international agreement to control cotton production and trade, and to concentrate on efforts by each country to stimulate cotton consumption.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages
1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1951 and 1952;
August-April 1952-53 and 1953-54

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1.					
	Averages		1951	1952	August-April	
	1935-39	1945-49			1952-53	1953-54
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Austria.....	0	36	32	47	39	32
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	169	131	317	73	68	56
Czechoslovakia.....	65	57	0	0	0	0
Denmark.....	33	14	34	34	26	18
Finland.....	35	21	33	4	4	0
France.....	662	575	309	507	379	359
Germany.....	511	340	447	241	193	315
Italy.....	442	489	560	272	227	180
Netherlands.....	107	131	197	79	66	82
Norway.....	17	7	15	11	11	11
Poland and Danzig.....	180	69	0	0	0	0
Portugal.....	36	2/	21	1	1	0
Spain.....	108	69	203	77	64	94
Sweden.....	115	12	100	36	31	38
Switzerland.....	11	26	99	28	27	22
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	662	359	323	290
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	122	86	67	33
Other Europe.....	31 3/	33	6	6	2	5
	3,885	2,545	3,157	1,861	1,528	1,535
Canada.....	301	275	296	284	239	175
Chile.....	9	20	35	1	1	18
Colombia.....	20	24	53	35	32	4
Cuba.....	11	16	20	12	10	13
India.....	52	86	778	45	37	120
China.....	117	401	0	0	0	0
French Indochina.....	22	6	24	18	17	14
Indonesia.....	2/	5	14	17	14	19
Japan.....	1,142	585	1,095	691	506	738
Korea, Republic of.....	4/	5/ 48	55	41	26	75
Taiwan (Formosa).....	4/	1	53	107	94	85
Australia.....	9	7	50	11	10	29
Other countries.....	21	46 6/	81 7/	58	43	48
Total.....	5,589	4,065	5,711	3,181	2,557	2,873

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Four-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries." 5/ Three-year average. 6/ Mostly countries in Asia (35) and Africa (25). 7/ Israel 14, Republic of Philippines 16.

These resolutions are in line with the policy recommendations made by the United States delegation in asking the cooperation of other nations in efforts to solve the chronic problem of world cotton surplus by active measures to stimulate consumption and prevent further increases in production. (A more detailed report on these resolutions appears on Pages 610 and 611 of this issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.)

United States exports during the year ending July 31 are now expected to total around 3.8 million running bales. Low carryover stocks in nearly all foreign countries, both importing and exporting, and a high level of world cotton consumption may stimulate a further increase in 1954-55 exports over those of the current year.--By Charles H. Barber.

FORECAST OF TURKEY'S 1954 COTTON ACREAGE

The 1954 cotton acreage in Turkey is estimated by private sources to be about equal to the 1,473,000 acres reported for 1953 and about 200,000 acres less than the record 1952 acreage, according to a report from L. L. Scranton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ankara. Planting was just being completed at the time of this report (early in June). Some sources expect subsequent acreage estimates by official sources to show some increase over the 1953 figure because of the favorable prices available for Turkish cotton during the winter and spring months, as the domestic and foreign market absorbed the dwindling stocks from the 1953 crop.

Prices on the Izmir and Adana Cotton Exchanges continue at relatively high levels for the small lots transacted, Acala I reaching 283 kurus per kilogram (45.85 U.S. cents a pound) at Izmir on May 20, with slightly lower prices quoted on the Adana market. A few transactions for 1954 cotton for future delivery have been reported, also at prices well above the average for the current season. The average value of March exports amounted to 235 kurus per kilogram (40 cents per pound) a substantial increase over the previous 7 months of the 1953-54 season, which ranged from 218 kurus in September to 227 for January and February.

Cotton exports during April amounted to 38,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) bringing the August 1953-April 1954 total to 317,000 bales, or about equal to the total of 318,000 for the comparable period of 1952-53. Principal destinations for this year's cotton with comparable figures for 1952-53 in parenthesis are: Japan 52,000 (none); Yugoslavia 44,000 (3,000); France 41,000 (67,000); Italy 38,000 (67,000); Israel 25,000 (2,000); Poland 22,000 (3,000); Czechoslovakia 22,000 (19,000); Hungary 17,000 (19,000); Western Germany 17,000 (110,000); Finland 15,000 (8,000). The 12-month total for 1952-53 was 433,000 bales.

NIGERIAN PEANUT PURCHASES APPROACH RECORD LEVELS

Nigerian peanut purchases during 1953-54, as declared by licensed buying agents of the Nigerian Marketing Board, are placed provisionally at 475,000 short tons of shelled nuts, according to E. P. Keeler, American Consulate General, Lagos. This is only slightly below the level of the record crops of 1951-52 and 1952-53 when 476,660 and 482,380 tons, respectively, were purchased. All 3 years were marked by favorable weather and attractive prices to growers. The buying season closed on May 20, 1954.

Annual peanut purchases by the Nigerian Groundnut Marketing Board since it was established in 1949 are as follows in short tons:

<u>Marketing Season</u>	<u>Kano Area</u>	<u>Rivers Area</u>	<u>Total</u>
1948-49	352,707	14,501	367,208
1949-50	199,518	11,214	210,732
1950-51	146,777	13,095	159,872
1951-52	448,665	27,994	476,659
1952-53	449,300	33,080	482,380
1953-54	450,243	24,834	475,077

No data are available on peanut production for domestic consumption but opinions have been expressed that consumption may be around 195,000 to 225,000 tons in nuts and in the form of "home-made" oil, and seed may account for another 85,000 tons. Other opinions place consumption at much higher figures. Peanuts in Nigeria are produced entirely by small peasant farmers. In the Northern Region, which produces almost 95 percent of the export crop, there may be as many as 1.5 million farmers engaged to some extent in growing peanuts as a cash crop.

Commercial production of peanut oil is carried on by 4 firms at Kano using modern expeller process plants. Peanuts utilized in these commercial plants are acquired on agreed terms from the Marketing Board, which takes over and sells the exportable surplus oil produced after local needs have been satisfied. A considerable expansion of processing capacity and of output was effected during 1953, as is shown by the fact that purchases for export during 1952-53 (November through October) were 17,385 tons, over 50 percent higher than the figure for the previous 12 months of 11,222 tons. Production during the current year is running at an even higher rate.

Nigeria exported 365,932 short tons of shelled peanuts during 1953 compared with 291,697 tons in 1952. Almost 95 percent of the total went to the United Kingdom. Peanut oil exports totaled 20,899 tons of which 99 percent went to the United Kingdom.

Stocks of peanuts for export held at the end of the year (October 31, 1953) were 219,567 tons against 145,337 tons at the end of the previous year. With additional locomotives received and to be received by the railway this year, stocks may be reduced to around 95,000 tons by October 31, 1954. By October 31, 1955, these stocks and the entire 1954-55 export production probably will have been moved. Marketing Board stocks held as of May 27, 1954, were approximately 404,320 tons.

Basic producer prices for the 1953-54 season were the same as those for the preceding year, that is, £36 per long ton (\$90 per short ton) at railway line buying stations in the Kano area and a like price at stations in the Baro/Lokoja and Makurdi areas of the Rivers area. In the Kano area, which accounts for almost 95 percent of the export crop, minimum prices to producers, after deduction of transport differentials and the L1-0-0 (\$2.80) per long ton Northern Region produce sales tax, ranged from £35 per long ton (\$87.50 per short ton) at railway line buying stations to £27 (\$67.50) at the stations which are most remote from the railway, that is, Maiduguri.

The Nigerian Groundnut Marketing Board announced on April 30, 1954, the provisional pre-planting producer price for the 1954-55 peanut crop, which assures to producers the same minimum price as for the 1953-54 crop. Its release is of great importance to farmers in the North who plant from about April to June.

The decision to terminate by mutual agreement the oils and oilseeds bulk selling agreement with the British Ministry of Food, as of July 1, 1954, was reported in Foreign Crops and Markets of May 31, 1954. The Boards, which market oils and oilseeds, have entered into bulk contracts with large industrial users in the United Kingdom whereby the latter will take approximately two-thirds of the Boards' production and the balance will be sold on the open market.

The new Constitutional arrangements which will go into effect this year call for the establishment of Regional Marketing Boards which will exercise a great part of the functions now exercised by the several commodity marketing boards (including the Groundnut Marketing Board) such as the fixing of prices to be paid to producers within a Region, the carrying out of price support and stabilization policies, the purchase of produce and its evacuation to ports, and the appointment of licensed buying agents. A Central Marketing Board is to be set up, and will act as an advisory body on these and other matters such as research and development. It will also make the arrangements for the export shipping and sale of produce controlled by the Regional Boards, and prescribe grades and standards for such produce.

Under the new arrangements the surplus funds of the several commodity marketing boards, including the Groundnut Marketing Board, are to be distributed among the new Regional Marketing Boards on a derivation basis. Surplus funds of the Groundnut Marketing Board, which would be available for distribution, were estimated at £18,500,000 (\$51,800,000) as of October 31, 1953.

CUBAN LARD IMPORTS UP SLIGHTLY IN FIRST QUARTER 1954

Cuban imports of lard and rendered pork fat during the first quarter of 1954 totaled 39,070,000 pounds, reports Guy L. Bush, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Havana. This is a slight increase from the corresponding period last year, but considerably below comparable imports of 1951 and 1952. Calendar year 1953 imports of lard and rendered pork fat were 135,197,000 pounds (see Foreign Crops and Markets of February 8, 1954, page 91).

CUBA: Imports of lard and rendered pork fat,
by quarters, 1951 to January-March 1954

(Million pounds)

Quarter	1951	1952	1953	1954
January - March.....	49.8	59.5	38.5	39.1
April - June.....	25.5	36.1	27.8	-
July - September.....	31.6	35.6	37.4	-
October - December.....	39.1	44.1	31.5	-
Total.....	146.0	175.3	135.2	-

Source: American Embassy, Havana.

Wholesale prices of imported lard moved upward in the first quarter of 1954 and in March ranged from 25.50 to 27.50 cents per pound.

There were no significant developments in the pork and lard situation during the period under review. A somewhat lower gross wage in the sugar industry may be reflected in some reduction in imports later in the year.

U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE, APRIL 1954

Export Highlights

Uptrend in farm exports continues in April 1954. United States exports of farm products advanced to \$258 million this April, an increase of nearly 6 percent over the March value of \$244 million and a gain of more than 15 percent over last April's value of \$224 million. Farm exports showed an increase for each of the 4 months thus far in 1954; exports in the July-April period of the current fiscal year totaled \$2,406 million as compared with \$2,400 million for the same period a year ago.

Relatively low U. S. prices, record foreign use, continue to spur cotton exports. Exports of 434 thousand bales this April were nearly double the amount exported in April a year ago and were the highest for the month since 1951. April's figure compared with 445 thousand bales exported this March. Exports in 1954 were stimulated by relatively low United States prices as compared with those of other exporting countries, low stocks in most importing countries, depleted supplies in nearly all foreign exporting countries, and record foreign consumption.

Wheat exports, low for several months, turn upward in April. Exports increased by 6 million bushels from March to April this year; April's 21 million bushels compared with March's 15 million. In April a year ago, 28 million bushels were exported. Exports this season and last were unusually low; main reasons were the reduced import needs of foreign countries, their larger output, and the resulting keener competition for outlets.

April tobacco exports turn upward; British takings are negligible. A total of 27 million pounds was exported in April 1954 as compared with 22 million in March; countries taking more tobacco included France, Portugal, Switzerland, Western Germany, Norway, and Uruguay. Shipments to the Netherlands were down, and those to the United Kingdom, which have been falling progressively in 1954, dropped to only 15 thousand pounds. In this fiscal year, the United Kingdom took its major purchases in the fall whereas in the previous fiscal year that country postponed shipments until spring when it took leaf options in late 1952. Hence, total shipments in early 1953 were larger than those in early 1954.

Japan's larger needs drive soybean exports upward. Exports rose to 3.2 million bushels this April as compared with 1.7 million this March and 1.8 million last April. As a consequence primarily of last year's short crop in Japan, that country's larger import requirements helped to expand foreign demand for United States soybeans, and this season's exports were above a year ago despite the relatively small 1953 United States crop.

Cottonseed oil shipments continue extraordinarily active. The 44 million pounds exported this April represented a quantity more than 8 times larger than that shipped out last April. Exports thus far this fiscal year totaled 194 million pounds as compared with 54 million in the July-April period last year, more than 3½ times larger. Sales for export from CCC-held stocks contributed significantly to the extraordinary gain this year; the bulk of the larger oil exports since January this year has gone to the Netherlands.

Peanut exports also continue much larger. Larger peanut exports this April reflected the continued movement of CCC stocks into export channels. April's 36 million pounds compared with less than a million a year ago; March's total was 48 million. July-April exports this year of 146 million pounds ran well ahead of the 3 million figure for the same period last year. Main countries involved in this year's increase were Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

**UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected
agricultural commodities and groups during April 1953 and 1954**

Commodity exported	Unit:	April		Value	
		Quantity		1953	
		1953	1954	1953	1954
				1,000	1,000
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands:	Thousands:	dollars	dollars
Cheese	Lb. :	224	462	115	209
Milk, condensed	Lb. :	1,969	77	501	24
Milk, evaporated	Lb. :	8,827	8,901	1,381	1,284
Milk, whole, dried	Lb. :	3,824	4,906	2,184	2,527
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb. :	8,073	4,655	857	806
Eggs, in the shell	Doz. :	2,308	1,886	1,262	1,014
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb. :	1,794	4,464	480	1,435
Pork, total 1/	Lb. :	5,210	4,200	1,382	1,398
Other meats 1/	Lb. :	5,789	6,787	1,560	1,913
Lard	Lb. :	40,675	40,774	4,730	8,213
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb. :	89,937	69,564	5,394	5,684
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmd., excl. linters (480 lb.) :	Bale:	218	434	37,813	78,272
Apples, fresh	Lb. :	3,847	7,631	393	656
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb. :	14,006	17,022	506	521
Oranges and tangerines	Lb. :	82,008	93,615	3,074	4,491
Pears, fresh	Lb. :	292	1,161	44	123
Prunes, dried	Lb. :	3,265	2,760	556	532
Raisins and currants	Lb. :	11,242	8,395	850	770
Fruits, canned	Lb. :	7,798	14,257	1,242	2,279
Fruit juices	Gal. :	1,891	3,344	1,743	2,467
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu. :	743	469	1,194	609
Barley, malt (34 lb.)	Bu. :	353	377	889	924
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu. :	8,775	8,163	15,423	13,871
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu. :	43	2/	75	1
Rice, milled, excludes paddy	Lb. :	109,501	85,657	10,934	7,419
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu. :	24,725	17,249	51,968	32,547
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.) :	Bag :	1,311	1,457	6,081	7,118
Flour, not wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.) :	Bag :	160	53	871	313
Hops	Lb. :	1,123	899	929	560
Nuts and preparations	Lb. :	730	35,737	246	3,696
Soybeans, except canned (60 lb.) ..	Bu. :	1,793	3,181	5,575	11,296
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc. :	Lb. :	2,454	1,758	379	267
Cottonseed oil, crude, refined, etc. :	Lb. :	5,402	43,643	829	5,276
Seeds, field and garden	Lb. :	963	12,873	404	844
Tobacco, flue-cured	Lb. :	44,675	18,729	29,903	11,645
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb. :	5,165	8,450	3,200	4,874
Beans, dried	Lb. :	27,058	12,926	2,276	1,178
Peas, dried	Lb. :	2,969	6,734	278	480
Potatoes, white	Lb. :	17,734	14,103	445	328
Vegetables, fresh, other	Lb. :	62,299	76,812	2,762	3,105
Vegetables, canned	Lb. :	7,737	8,515	995	1,188
Food exported for relief, etc.	:	:	:	1,339	6,267
Other agricultural commodities	:	:	:	20,909	29,803
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	:	:	:	223,971	258,227
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES	:	:	:	1,384,131	1,408,403

1/ Product weight. 2/ Less than 500

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

Larger European demand for U. S. oranges maintains exports. Exports this April of 94 million pounds compared with 82 million last April and were not far below this March's shipments of 100 million pounds. Practically all U. S. exports are marketed in Canada and Europe; demand for U. S. fruit in Europe strengthened in recent months as a result of the freeze in Spain.

Japan and Cuba take much less U. S. rice this April. As a consequence of sharp reductions in shipments to Japan and Cuba, commercial exports of U. S. milled rice declined from 152 million pounds this March to 86 million in April. Exports for the July-April period this year totaled 1,486 million pounds as compared with 1,317 million a year ago. Japan's takings in this period were about double those of a year ago while Cuba's receipts totaled about the same. Japan's small rice crop caused her to import much more this year; larger sales to Japan more than offset sharp reductions in exports to Korea, Indonesia, Ceylon, and the Ryukyu Islands. Shipments in April this year were well below the 110 million pounds exported in the same month a year ago.

Corn exports in April show small increase over March. April's exports of 8.2 million bushels were above March's 7.7 million figure but slightly below last April's 8.8 million bushels. For July-April, exports this year ran 2.3 million bushels below the 98.7 million figure for the like months a year ago. Substantial Mexican purchases this year kept up U. S. exports after last fall's heavy Western European demand for United States feed grain declined.

April's beef and veal exports gain over March and last April. March's exports were lower than a year ago, but those in April gained notably. Exports of 4.5 million pounds compared with 1.8 million a year ago and 0.8 million this March. July-April exports were considerably ahead of last year's level for this period; the main reason was the more plentiful U. S. supplies available at lower prices this year.

April's lard exports are notably larger in quantity. For a number of months exports were running behind a year ago as a result of the reduced U. S. hog slaughter; but April's exports this year of 41 million pounds matched those of April a year ago and were also 78 percent larger than March's 23 million pounds. Value this April was \$8.2 million as compared with \$4.7 million last April, due entirely to higher prices this year. The larger exports in April over March probably included sales made to the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia under Section 550 of the Mutual Security Act; this Section provides for the acceptance of foreign currencies for United States agricultural products.

**UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption
of selected agricultural commodities and groups during April 1953 and 1954**

Commodity imported	Unit	April		Value	
		Quantity	Quantity	1953	1954
		1953	1954	1953	1954
SUPPLEMENTARY				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands:	Thousands:	dollars:	dollars:
Cattle, dutiable	No. :	34 :	11 :	2,678 :	2,032
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No. :	3 :	1 :	766 :	335
Casein and lactarene	Lb. :	7,671 :	6,191 :	946 :	1,073
Cheese	Lb. :	4,503 :	4,851 :	2,189 :	2,155
Hides and skins	Lb. :	17,649 :	12,183 :	8,032 :	5,785
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb. :	11,000 :	17,672 :	3,780 :	5,541
Pork, total 1/	Lb. :	16,132 :	17,077 :	10,468 :	13,567
Wool, unmf., excl. free, etc.	Lb. :	30,751 :	16,834 :	22,259 :	14,322
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmf., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale :	32 :	24 :	5,515 :	4,975
Jute and jute butts, unmf. (2,240 lb.)	Ton :	13 :	7 :	2,232 :	1,687
Olives in brine	Gal. :	1,268 :	1,472 :	2,008 :	3,554
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb. :	5,563 :	3,777 :	688 :	459
Other fruits and preparations		2/ :	2/ :	2,784 :	3,811
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu. :	3,371 :	2,945 :	5,297 :	3,461
Oats, grain (32 lb.)	Bu. :	6,703 :	3,642 :	5,258 :	2,804
Wheat and flour (grain equiv. 60 lb.)	Bu. :	932 :	797 :	2,003 :	1,433
Feeds and fodders		2/ :	2/ :	3,687 :	3,840
Nuts and preparations		2/ :	2/ :	4,355 :	3,380
Castor beans	Lb. :	10,211 :	3,540 :	838 :	165
Copra	Lb. :	77,034 :	38,402 :	7,864 :	3,383
Oils, fats, waxes, veg. expressed ..	Lb. :	57,500 :	44,912 :	10,273 :	9,112
Sugar, cane (2,000 lb.)	Ton :	398 :	480 :	44,531 :	52,405
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal. :	63,393 :	44,829 :	4,540 :	3,745
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb. :	6,063 :	6,687 :	4,044 :	4,597
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb. :	1,119 :	1,225 :	1,878 :	1,908
Seeds, field and garden		2/ :	2/ :	1,119 :	1,541
Potatoes, white	Lb. :	19,093 :	10,228 :	574 :	175
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb. :	21,725 :	20,100 :	1,691 :	1,386
Other supplementary				22,737 :	18,162
Total supplementary				185,034 :	170,793
COMPLEMENTARY					
Silk, raw	Lb. :	369 :	945 :	1,889 :	4,693
Wool, unmf., free in bond	Lb. :	15,321 :	16,665 :	7,313 :	8,193
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch :	4,719 :	4,839 :	6,265 :	6,780
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb. :	283,361 :	253,417 :	148,193 :	175,478
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb. :	61,184 :	31,507 :	17,660 :	16,315
Tea	Lb. :	11,141 :	18,079 :	4,963 :	10,239
Spices (complementary)	Lb. :	7,382 :	7,570 :	4,600 :	3,405
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton :	11 :	14 :	2,384 :	2,827
Rubber, crude	Lb. :	135,695 :	111,676 :	33,938 :	19,461
Other complementary				9,828 :	8,398
Total complementary				237,033 :	255,789
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES				422,067 :	426,582
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES				997,483 :	943,075

1/ Product weight. 2/ Reported in value only.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

April shows another decline for tallow exports. For the second successive month, exports declined below a year ago; April's 70 million pounds this year compared with 90 million last year. This decline was far greater than the 2-million-pound drop from March 1953 to March 1954. The decline from April 1953 to April 1954 reflected substantial reductions for Japan and the Netherlands. Due to its considerably tighter dollar situation, Japan limited tallow imports. Although United States tallow continues to be the world's most economical source of soap fat, the average export price in April was 8 cents a pound as compared with 6 cents a year ago. The higher price raised the export value.

Import Highlights

April gain in noncompetitive imports is due largely to higher coffee prices. Noncompetitive imports gained in April this year over the same month last year while competitive imports declined; the net result was little change in the total of agricultural imports, \$427 million this April as compared with \$422 million in the previous April. The value of noncompetitive products rose from \$237 million last April to \$256 million this April. The main factor in the increase was the higher price for coffee; average import price was 69 cents a pound this April as compared with 52 cents a year ago. Also contributing to the gain in value were the larger imports of tea and raw silk; offsetting these increases was the continued substantial reduction in rubber imports.

March to April increase in noncompetitive imports is contraseasonal. Imports of noncompetitive agricultural products usually fall from March to April, often rather sharply; this year, however, these imports registered a gain of \$36 million. Principal commodities involved in the increase were carpet wool, raw silk, cacao beans, and tea; coffee prices moved up also from March to April and contributed to about half of the increase.

Competitive imports continue to run below those of a year ago. The value of these imports in April this year was \$171 million as compared with \$185 million in April a year ago. Declines were notable for hides and skins, apparel wool, barley, oats, nuts, copra, and expressed vegetable fats and oils; they were offset in part by larger imports of beef, pork, fruits, and cane sugar.

But April's competitive imports are ahead of March's. April's competitive imports were \$31 million above March's figure of \$140 million. There were many increases, notably those for cattle, pork, hides and skins, cane sugar, molasses not fit for human consumption, expressed vegetable fats and oils, barley, oats, brined olives, and cotton.

NIGERIAN PALM OIL AND PALM KERNEL PURCHASES AT ALL-TIME HIGH

Purchases of Nigerian palm oil and palm kernels for export during 1953 reached an all-time high for the second successive year, reports E. P. Keeler, American Consulate General, Lagos.

All exportable surpluses of these commodities are acquired by and marketed through the Nigerian oil Palm Produce Marketing Board, established in 1949. Hence, the purchases of the Board represent an accurate picture of production of these commodities for export. Purchases totaled 251,120 short tons of palm oil and 597,614 tons of palm kernels. Purchases of palm oil and palm kernels in each of the last 5 years were as follows (in short tons):

<u>Marketing year</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Palm oil</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>Palm kernels</u>
1949	:	1/ 189,890	:	417,654
1950	:	187,179	:	426,640
1951	:	162,933	:	369,594
1952	:	213,154	:	462,310
1953	:	251,120	:	485,614
	:		:	

1/ Approximate.

The most outstanding development of the last 2 seasons has been the striking improvement in quality of the Nigerian palm oil for export, resulting primarily from the stimulus of the Board's price premiums for special grade (edible oil, together with the increased use of mechanical presses. The Special Grade (less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent f.f.a.) was first established in 1950, with purchases in that year accounting for only 2 percent of the Board's total purchases. In 1952, Special Grade oil comprised approximately 30 percent of the Board's purchases and in 1953 it comprised 50 percent.

The expanded use of mechanical presses, with their greater recovery of oil, has been an important factor in the increasing ratio of palm oil purchases to kernel purchases. The number of hand-operated, mechanical presses in the country has approximately doubled since 1949, from perhaps 2,700 to 5,300, and the number of power operated Pioneer oil mills from 5 in 1949 to over 50 in 1953.

No actual data are available on total production of palm oil for domestic consumption in Nigeria, where it is an important item of household consumption (for food, home soap-making, lighting, etc.). Some calculations result in a figure as high as 390,000 tons for domestic non-commercial consumption. Persons engaged in the oil trade, however, think that a figure around 225,000 tons might be more representative. Relatively small quantities of palm kernel oil are expressed and used for home consumption.

Sales to the one soap factory in Nigeria by the Marketing Board during recent years have averaged about 7,800 tons of palm oil and about 3,700 tons of palm kernels annually. The recent establishment of a small margarine factory will somewhat increase this local commercial consumption of palm produce. In 1953 sales to the soap factory totaled approximately 11,000 tons of palm oil and 3,900 tons of palm kernels.

Palm exports during 1953 totaled 224,738 short tons of oil and 451,217 tons of kernels compared with 187,363 and 419,063 tons, respectively, in 1952. During 1953, 97 percent of the oil and 93 percent of the kernels went to the United Kingdom.

The Marketing Board's basic producer prices for palm oil during 1953 and the prices established for the current season, which began January 1, 1954, were reported as follows:

(Naked, ex-scale port of shipment/bulk oil plant)

Grade	1953		1954	
	Equivalent in:		Equivalent in:	
	E. s. d.	U. S. dollars:	E. s. d.	U. S. dollars
	per long ton:	per short ton:	per long ton:	per short ton
Special.....	75-10-0	188.75	65-0-0	162.50
Technical.....				
I	58-0-0	145.00	50-0-0	125.00
II	45-0-0	112.50	38-0-0	95.00
III	34-10-0	86.25	33-0-0	82.50
IV and V	Purchase discontinued.			

The basic producer price for kernels during 1953 was £34 per long ton (\$85 per short ton) naked ex-scale port of shipment. The price for 1954 is the same.

Stocks at the end of 1953 were at normal levels, that is, at their lowest during the year. Extensions and improvements are going forward at the Bulk Oil Plants at Calabar and Port Harcourt. The output of oil at this latter plant is likely to exceed 112,000 tons this year, and it is anticipated that the improvements now in hand will appreciably reduce the delay in evacuation from Up-country stations at the height of the season, which has been a feature of operations in past seasons.

A recent development of particular interest in the palm oil and palm kernel oil trade has been the decision to terminate by mutual agreement the four-year bulk selling agreement with the British Ministry of Food, covering oils and oilseeds, as of June 30, 1954. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, May 31, 1954.)

TRADE DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Argentina expanding bilateral trading - - - Argentina has in effect some 26 bilateral trade agreements with countries in the non-dollar area according to Argentine official reports. Sixty percent of its exports in 1953 moved under these agreements. The bilateral trade agreement negotiated with Russia this year is officially considered of special significance in Argentina. Argentina is the first Latin American country to start trade negotiations with Russia. Both bilateralism in trade and state trading still appear to be highly regarded by the Argentine Government and are expected to be continued.

Turkish Government to continue expanding production of export commodities - - - The recent election victory in Turkey was an endorsement of the Government's program during the past 4 years according to the Prime Minister's speech of May 24 before the Turkish National Assembly. In his speech he glossed over present marketing and foreign exchange problems and told the Assembly that the same program would be continued for another 4 years. On farm policies he stressed standardization of grain grading, improvements in quality of cotton, increased production of exportable products, and continued price supports for wheat to encourage production. Further mechanization of agriculture is to be continued.

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Dutch surveying agricultural investment opportunities in Ethiopia - - - A recent despatch from Addis Ababa states that the Netherlands Exploration Syndicate for Africa of Rotterdam has had an agricultural consultant in Ethiopia since March 1 surveying investment opportunities for commercially significant production of coffee, tea, rice and cotton. The consultant is reported as being encouraged by what he has thus far found. He is also to survey opportunities in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The Dutch already have a large sugar estate in Wonji, Ethiopia which has commenced production, and they are currently laying out plans for establishing sizable rice plantations along the Awash River.

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Japanese purchase rice from Communist China---A shipment of rice from the Chinese mainland left Shanghai on May 19 and arrived in Japan on June 4. The quantity is about 7,000 tons. Shipping arrangements were concluded on May 7, 1954 through the London agent of the Daiichi Kisen K.K. (The First Shipping Company, Ltd.), a Kobe firm, after negotiations with Communist China and Ceylonese Government agencies.

In the past year, rice produced in China has been reaching Japan but via Ceylon to which it had originally been shipped under the Ceylon-Communist China rubber-for-rice barter agreement. This, however, is the first direct shipment of China-origin rice to Japan in several years.

Kobe reports state that the import price \$175 a ton which is about 20 percent below recent import levels. The First Shipping Company is using its own vessels for the current shipment. The freight charge is reported to have been 36 shillings per ton.

British bulk purchase policy developments --- As recently announced in the House of Commons, there are two significant features of the present British bulk purchase policy: (1) to restore the trade in foodstuffs to private enterprise whenever possible; (2) termination of contracts between the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries or territories only with the full agreement and cooperation of the other contracting Commonwealth governments. At the beginning of 1954 more than 30 long-term bilateral bulk purchasing agreements for agricultural commodities existed between the United Kingdom and various countries, particularly Commonwealth countries and territories. Some have recently been terminated by mutual consent; others have been modified to include price guarantee to producers similar to the system in domestic British agriculture. Still others have been extended without substantial change in form. In one instance, there has already been a request for a further extension of a bulk purchase contract which does not expire until 1959.

Benelux countries liberalize trade with dollar area - - - A number of agricultural products are included in the list of commodities for which restrictions on dollar area imports have been abolished by Belgium-Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Rye, rice, feedgrains, oilseeds, soybean oil, cottonseed oil and tallow as well as tobacco and cotton are among the commodities which can be freely imported into the Benelux area. Included are also such fruits as figs, dates, pineapples, almonds, other nuts, and apricots as well as canned fruits. Various frozen meat products, sweetened condensed or powdered milk and honey are also on the liberalized list. Some agricultural products - - apples, pears, citrus fruit, dried fruit and fruit juices among them - - are, however, still subject to individually screened licensing. This applies to imports from other countries as well as from the dollar area. No United States farm products are subject to specific dollar area restrictions in the Benelux countries.

Russian Bloc expands trade with Uruguay - - - Russia moved into first place as a market for Uruguayan agricultural exports during April of this year and its purchases in May have been even larger. Uruguay has been having difficulty in finding markets for its principal exports, wool and meat. Now Russia has become a heavy purchaser of the wool, meat and hides and skins that Uruguay has in surplus. During April and May, Russia took about 23 million pounds of frozen meat from Uruguay, over 70 percent of its exports for the two months. Out of a total of 56 million pounds of frozen meat exports during the first 5 months of the year, Russia has taken 30 million pounds and Czechoslovakia and Hungary an additional 3 million pounds. Their combined take is over half of all of Uruguay's frozen meat exports. These purchases by the Russian bloc should give that area an important place in Uruguay's balance of payments for 1954. So far Uruguay has not imported Russian goods but there is talk of opening an import quota for steel of Russian origin and a likelihood of purchases of other goods from the same source.

L A T E N E W S

(Continued from Page 593)

Exports of cotton linters from the United States in April 1954 (mostly chemical grades) amounted to 29,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight (24,000 running bales) making an August-April 1953-54 total of 203,000 bales (169,000 running bales). Principal destinations included in the 9-month total are: Western Germany 78,000; France 36,000; United Kingdom 34,000; Japan 31,000; Canada 13,000; and the Netherlands 7,000.

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Faced with a large surplus of olive oil from the 1953-54 season and prospect of a high yield for the season starting next November, Tunisian authorities have decided to suspend provisionally -- until August 31, 1954-- the transaction tax of 3.5 percent hitherto assessed on exports of edible olive oil exceeding 1.5 degrees acidity. This tax is not assessed on oil of lower acidity. The measure is given official effect by order dated June 9, 1954 published in the Journal Officiel Tunisien No. 47 of June 11, 1954.

The object of the measure is to stimulate exports of oil from the 27,500-short-ton surplus that now remains on hand.

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